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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

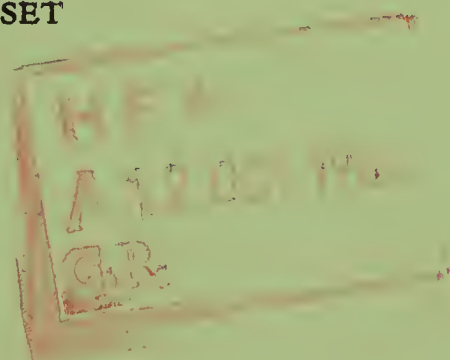
Medical Officer of Health

AND

Senior Public Health
Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1961

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1961

*Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the
Taunton Isolation and Chest Hospital :*

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Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. PLIMMER, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

E. G. PAYNE, M.A.P.H.I.

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To :

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1961. The report contains the usual information on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. This has again been divided into two sections, the first referring to the province of the Medical Officer of Health, and the second contributed by the Senior Public Health Inspector. The report, in the main, follows the same lines as that of the previous year, but certain fresh facts have been incorporated in the various sections.

Some features of the year under review are as follows :—

1. The year 1961 showed a high prevalence of measles in this part of the country, there having been 382 cases notified in the rural district. This common infection, in spite of improved treatment, can still be a serious matter, especially in very young children, and it is interesting to note that the responsible virus has now been identified and cultured, and that the production of a vaccine to protect children who are particularly at risk is within sight.
2. The Clatworthy reservoir and waterworks were completed during the year, and an official opening ceremony was held in July. There will be a great improvement in the water supplies of the district as a result of this far-sighted scheme. Preliminary meetings and consultations were in progress during 1961 in connection with the formation of a Water Board for a large area of West Somerset.
3. During the year the Council adopted comprehensive new conditions for application to caravan site licences, based on the model conditions issued by the Ministry. The owners of two large sites in the area entered appeals against the new conditions, but these were withdrawn after further consultations.
4. The year saw the completion of the sewerage system for the village of Creech St. Michael and its surroundings. This resulted in the connection of 196 properties to the main sewer running to the Taunton Sewage Disposal Works at Ham. The Public Health Department carried out detailed drainage and sewage disposal surveys in a number of parishes with a view to advising the Council on the relative priorities for new schemes.

5. An interesting development took place in the field of Mental Health with the establishment of a Social Health Centre at Ivor House, in Taunton. This is an old building which has been ingeniously modernised and adapted to provide day care and treatment for those suffering from certain types of mental disturbance. It will be of great benefit in reducing the need for hospitalisation of these patients, and the rural district is well placed, among others, to benefit from these services.

Once again I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials of other Departments, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and the Matron and Staff of the Isolation Hospital for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT

Statistics of the Area for the Year 1961

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70,528 |
| Estimate of resident population, mid-year 1961 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22,470 |
| Census population (preliminary report), 1961 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22,198 |
| No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on 1st April, 1961 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,522 |
| Rateable value 1st April, 1961 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £212,500 |
| Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, year 1961-62 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £907 1 5 |

Physical Features and Social Conditions

Taunton Rural District lies in the south-western region of Somerset, surrounding Taunton Borough, the County Town. It is roughly triangular in shape, with Taunton Borough situated near the middle of the triangle. The boundary of the district is formed on the north by the Rural Districts of Williton and Bridgwater; on the east and south-east by the Rural Districts of Langport and Chard; on the south by the County of Devon; on the south-west and west by the Rural District of Wellington.

There is considerable variation in the type of country found in different parts of the district: in the north and north-west there is high ground forming portions of the Quantock and Brendon Hills; in the south the land rises to the hill parish of Churchstanton lying in the Blackdowns; between these regions lies the fertile valley of Taunton Deane, with the ground falling towards the east to the flat moors and marshy ground surrounding the lower reaches of Tone and Parret. Geologically also, the formations vary. In the north are found chiefly old and new red sandstone; in the south, lower lias and upper greensand; the valley regions have new red marl, new red sandstone and alluvium.

The climate is equable, with an average annual rainfall of 36.6 ins., and an average mean daily temperature of about 41° F. in January and 62° F. in July.

Rich arable and pasture land covers most of the district, but some of the hill regions are in the rough uncultivated state, and the soil on the Blackdown Hills tends to be poor in quality. In the eastern parishes the land is subject to seasonal flooding. Communications are good, and almost all parts of the district are easily accessible by road. Following the Tone valley through the middle of the district runs one of the main lines of the Western Region of British Railways and three branch lines leave it at or near Taunton to run to the north, south and west.

There are thirty-two parishes with estimated populations varying from 69 to 3,147. Habitations are widely scattered over these parishes, but there are several sizeable villages, the largest being Bishops Lydeard, Bishops Hull, Lydeard St. Lawrence, North Curry, Trull, Norton Fitzwarren and West Monkton.

Most of the inhabitants are engaged in some form of agriculture, dairy farming being particularly important. General farming is also largely practised, and allied activities are withy growing and basket-making, fruit farming and cider-making. There is a paper mill in the district which employs a fair number of people, and another source of employment for men is stone-quarrying which is carried out on a considerable scale. A factory producing meat products and a branch factory run by Taunton Shirt Manufacturers, are additional centres of employment in the district. Many of the residents in the rural district travel daily to Taunton to work in factories and other establishments.

There is one large institution in the district, namely Tone Vale Hospital in the parish of Bishops Lydeard, which, with its patients and resident staff, accounts for a population of about 1,200.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

With reference to the figures which follow, it should be pointed out that the standardisation of the rate for births and deaths allows for the differing age and sex distribution of the populations in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole, or with those for other districts.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births.

| | M. | F. | Total | } Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 15.4 |
|--------------|-----|-----|-------|---|
| Legitimate | 178 | 153 | 331 | |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 9 | 15 | |
| Totals | 184 | 162 | 346 | |

| | |
|---|------|
| { Standardised Birth Rate, Taunton R.D. ... | 17.9 |
| { Birth Rate, England and Wales ... | 17.4 |

(b) Still Births.

| | |
|---|------|
| Total... | 1 |
| { Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births— | |
| Taunton R.D. ... | 15.0 |
| England and Wales ... | 18.7 |
| { Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population— | |
| Taunton R.D. ... | 0.04 |

2. Deaths.

| | |
|--|------|
| (a) Total Deaths ... | 319 |
| Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | 14.2 |
| { Standardised Death Rate, Taunton R.D. ... | 11.4 |
| { Death Rate for England and Wales ... | 12.0 |

(b) Maternal Morality.

| | |
|---|---|
| Total maternal deaths from all causes ... | 0 |
|---|---|

(c) Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| | Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Deaths among legitimate infants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| ,, illegitimate | ,, | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| { Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births— | | | | | | |
| Taunton R.D. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20.2 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21.4 |

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

Infant Mortality during 1961

| Cause of Death | Under 1 week | 1 to 2 weeks | 1 to 6 months | 6 to 12 months | Total under 1 year |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Gastro Enteritis | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Hydrocephalus | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Congenital heart disease | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |

Causes of death during 1961

| | M. | F. | Total. |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | 1 | — | 1 |
| Tuberculosis, other | — | — | — |
| Syphilitic disease | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| Whooping cough | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal infections | — | — | — |
| Acute poliomyelitis | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | — | 6 | 6 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | 3 | 3 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 20 | 17 | 37 |
| Leukæmia, aleukæmia | — | 1 | 1 |
| Diabetes | — | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 13 | 29 | 42 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 27 | 20 | 47 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | — | 4 | 4 |
| Other heart disease | 17 | 31 | 48 |
| Other circulatory disease | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Influenza | 2 | — | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 7 | 17 | 24 |
| Bronchitis | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| Other disease of respiratory system | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | — | — | — |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 3 | — | 3 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | — | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 16 | 20 | 36 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 | — | 2 |
| All other accidents | — | 2 | 2 |
| Suicide | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Homicide and operations of war | — | — | — |
| All Causes—Total | 144 | 175 | 319 |

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Domiciliary Services

(1) Medical and Nursing

There are seven general medical practitioners living and carrying on the main part of their practice in different areas of the district. In addition to this, most of the Taunton Borough practitioners have some rural district residents on their lists, and there is also, as would be expected, some overlap from the surrounding rural districts in the provision of medical attention. There are adequate arrangements for domiciliary consultation, when required, with consultants serving the Taunton area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory.

(2) Home Help Service

This service, administered by the Somerset County Council, is now well established in the district, and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Taunton Rural District during 1961.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Maternity | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Old age | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| Chronic sick | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Emergency illness | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Post Operation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Total | | | | | 85 |

Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below :—

(1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton, and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishments, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Pædiatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopædics and Ophthalmology. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose.

(2) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Taunton Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious disease requiring admission to hospital is certainly changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by innoculation, and in the past few years there has not been a severe epidemic in this part of the country. Many cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital. Thus although the type of illness dealt with changes over the years, the total number of cases requiring isolation treatment has rather tended to increase than to diminish.

(3) Tuberculosis

Cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at

Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopædic treatment are becoming very uncommon, but when they do occur, arrangements for treatment are made according to the individual need.

(4) Poliomyelitis

Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

(5) Chronic Sick

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of the cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton which is having many internal improvements carried out in order to raise it to the highest modern standards. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on.

It was not found necessary during the year to invoke powers under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47, for the compulsory removal to an Institution of persons in need of proper care and attention. Preliminary steps had to be taken with one such case, but before court action was required, the person concerned agreed to enter an institution voluntarily, and one is pleased to report that the outcome was entirely happy and satisfactory for all concerned.

(6) Mentally Sick

Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

(1) Tuberculosis

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Taunton Rural District.

(2) Venereal Disease

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue to have observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic. These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

(3) Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods,

water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required. A twenty-four hour service is maintained throughout each day of the week.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Infectious Diseases

The following table gives the number of notifications received for various notifiable diseases.

| Diseases | No\| of Notifications | AGE GROUPS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| | | 1st year of life | 1-2 incl. | 3-4 incl. | 5-9 incl. | 10-14 incl. | 15-24 incl. | 25 & over | Age unknown |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 10 | — | — | 2 | 7 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Measles ... | 382 | 6 | 54 | 88 | 187 | 33 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Whooping cough ... | 28 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |

The following table shows notification rates of the above diseases for Taunton Rural District compared with the same rates in the previous year. In each instance these rates are calculated as numbers of notified cases per 1,000 of population, except with Puerperal Pyrexia in which the rate is furnished by the number of cases per 1,000 total live and still births :—

| Diseases | No. of Notifications in Taunton Rural District | Rates for Taunton R.D. | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|------|
| | | 1961 | 1960 |
| Scarlet Fever | 10 | 0.44 | 0.48 |
| Measles | 382 | 17.0 | 1.68 |
| Whooping Cough | 28 | 1.24 | 1.20 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 0.04 | 0.33 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | 5.8 | 0.00 |

Tuberculosis

The following table gives the number of new cases of respiratory and non-respiratory Tuberculosis notified during 1961 and mortality from the disease.

New Cases and Mortality during 1961

| Ages in years | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| | Resp'tory | | Non-Resp. | | Resp'tory | | Non-Resp. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0—1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2—5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 6—10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 11—15 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 16—20 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 21—25 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 26—35 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 36—45 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 46—55 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 50—65 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| 66 and up | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Not known | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 9 | | 3 | | 1 | | — | |

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names and addresses of 102 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis and 20 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis

The immunisation campaign against diphtheria has been an outstanding success in this district, and in the country as a whole; but it remains essential that all young children should be given the benefit of this protection, and there is some evidence that without constant stress on this fact, the number of children being immunised each year might easily fall to a dangerously low level.

It is customary in the county of Somerset to combine immunisation against whooping cough with the course used to protect against diphtheria, and this is also a most valuable public health measure, since whooping cough is now probably the most serious of the common infectious diseases affecting young children.

The following table indicates the number of children who completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation during the year 1961.

| Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5—9 | 10—14 | Total |
|---------|-----|----|---|---|-----|-------|-------|
| 89 | 127 | 32 | 7 | 8 | 27 | 9 | 299 |

Poliomyelitis Prophylaxis

During the year 1961 immunisation against poliomyelitis was given to a large number of children, and this campaign continues steadily. Protection was also offered to adults, and a fair number of these took the opportunity to be immunised. Up to the end of the year the method of protection consisted of the injection of vaccine material, but plans were in hand to change to the use of oral vaccines during the following year. The numbers in various age groups who had been, or were in progress of being immunised by the end of 1961 were as follows :—

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Up to age 14 | ... | ... | 363 |
| 15 to 25 years | ... | ... | 106 |
| 26 to 40 years | ... | ... | 321 |
| Over 40 years | ... | ... | 2 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Of the 6,522 houses in the district, it is estimated that 4,900 are connected with a public piped water supply.

Public water undertakings owned by the Council are six in number, viz :—

| | | |
|--|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Eastern Parishes (formerly Portman) | ... | } Treated by chlorina- tion |
| 2. Churchstanton | ... .. |  |
| 3. Cothelstone | ... .. |  |
| 4. Thurlbear | ... .. |  |
| 5. West Bagborough | | } Unchlor- inated |
| 6. Westleigh, Lydeard St. Lawrence | ... .. |  |

Chemical and bacteriological sampling of public water supplies is done periodically throughout the year. No plumbo-solvent action exists in any of the water supplies in the district.

In addition to the supplies owned by the Taunton Rural District Council there is an extensive portion of the district served by the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking. The following parishes are supplied as a whole or in part from this source :— Bishops Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Corfe, Creech St. Michael, Norton Fitzwarren, Orchard Portman, Pitminster, Ruishton, Staple-grove, Stoke St. Mary, Thornfalcon, Trull and West Monkton. This water is regularly tested and kept under supervision by the Taunton Borough authorities, and has maintained a consistently excellent standard.

The remainder of the district is supplied chiefly from wells, most of them coming into the shallow category, and thus being very liable to pollution. Cleaning of contaminated wells followed by chlorination sometimes results in a pure supply for a period of time, but the trouble is always likely to recur, and the wells can never be relied upon to provide a constant wholesome supply. Often boiling of water before use has to be advised, and the problem will not be satisfactorily solved until piped water is taken to the properties concerned.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Of the 32 parishes in the District, only nine have sewerage disposal works, and of these works, perhaps five may be regarded as meeting disposal requirements satisfactorily, namely those in the parishes of Bishops Lydeard, Bishops Hull, Norton Fitzwarren, Ruishton and Creech St. Michael, while the remaining four at Combe Florey, Hatch Beauchamp, North Curry and Corfe are inadequate for their purpose.

The provision of public sewerage schemes in various areas of the district which are at present without this amenity was a much more definite prospect at the end of the year. The advantages of these schemes as compared with individual septic tanks and similar methods of disposal were considered in detail in previous reports, and it is unnecessary at this stage to repeat these points.

Housing

Provision of houses in the District by the Council has gone on steadily throughout the year. 45 were completed in 1961 and since the end of the war 781 have been built. In addition to this, about 794 houses have been built by private enterprise during the same period. This building activity has had some effect on the waiting list of families requiring accommodation, but continued efforts in this direction will be required for some time to come. There were about 288 applicants for Council houses on the waiting list at the end of 1961.

The Council's building programme was as follows :—

| Parish | Number completed during 1961 | Number under construction at 31st Dec., 1961 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Cheddon Fitzpaine | 3 | — |
| Bishops Hull | 12 | — |
| Ruishton | 4 | — |
| Bishops Lydeard | 16 | — |
| West Monkton | 7 | 6 |
| Creech St. Michael | 3 | 10 |
| Lydeard St. Lawrence | — | 6 |
| | <hr/> 45 <hr/> | <hr/> 22 <hr/> |

The following table shows the number of houses owned by the Council :—

| | Parish | | | | Number of houses | |
|----------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-------|
| Bishops Hull | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Bishops Lydeard | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 247 |
| Cheddon Fitzpaine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Churchstanton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Combe Florey | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Corfe | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Creech St. Michael | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Curland | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Hatch Beauchamp | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Kingston St. Mary | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Lydeard St. Lawrence | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| North Curry | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| Norton Fitzwarren | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 167 |
| Otterford | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Pitminster | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| Ruishton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Staplegrove | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Stoke St. Gregory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Stoke St. Mary | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Thornfalcon | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Trull | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| West Bagborough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| West Hatch | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| West Monkton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 120 |
| Total | | | | | | 1,179 |

The following table refers to properties dealt with under slum clearance procedure :

| Action | Houses dealt with during 1961 | Total number of houses dealt with since 1.1.55 |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Acquired by Council for demolition (site to be used for erecting new houses) | — | 6 |
| 2. Demolition Order made | 18 | 55 |
| 3. Undertaking given not to use for human habitation | 1 | 63 |
| 4. Houses actually demolished | — | 22 |
| 5. Clearance Area Procedure carried out | — | 5 (in one terraced block) |
| 6. Closing Order | 2 | 8 |

The year showed very gratifying progress in the field of Improvement Grants. During the year, 13 Discretionary Grants and 50 Standard Grants were made, bringing the total of Improvement Grants for the District up to the end of 1961 to 341.

During 1961, 46 site licences were issued, 28 of these being for individual caravans, and the remainder for sites accommodating two or more caravans.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a tabular statement of work carried out during the year 1961 :—

Number and nature of inspections :—

| | | |
|---|--------|-------|
| Dwelling houses (Inspections, revisits, etc.) | ... | 1,900 |
| Food Premises | ... .. | 95 |
| Rodent Control | ... .. | 53 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... .. | 2,339 |
| Factories and Workshops | ... .. | 20 |
| Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) | | |
| Act, 1956 | ... .. | 75 |
| Water Supplies | ... .. | 137 |
| Drainage (foul ditches, etc.) | ... .. | 65 |
| Moveable dwellings | ... .. | 80 |
| Refuse collection and disposal | ... .. | 402 |
| Clean Air Act, 1956 | ... .. | 17 |
| Miscellaneous | ... .. | 151 |

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Work has continued during the year on the inspection and supervision of food premises in the area. It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any cases for breach of the regulations.

Water Samples

87 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination during the year. Of this number 45 have been taken from private supplies, and reported on as follows :—

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Grade 1. | 9 samples |
| 2. | 6 „ |
| 3. | 5 „ |
| 4. | 25 „ |
| | <hr/> |
| | 45 |
| | <hr/> |

Advice on improving existing supplies and warnings against drinking water without boiling have been issued in all appropriate cases.

42 samples of water have been obtained from the various public supplies in the area, for bacteriological examination during the year.

Six chemical samples have been taken and all were satisfactory.

Bakehouses

There are 5 bakehouses in the district.

Ice Cream

The number of retailers of this product in the area is 74. They sell pre-packed ice cream, which is stored in properly constructed refrigerators.

Rodent Control

An operator is employed jointly with Wellington R.D.C. During the year the sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse tips were inspected and treated systematically. Private dwelling houses and business premises have been surveyed and treated both from complaints made and infestations discovered during surveys. Summary of inspection and control measures taken are as follows—

Report for 12 months ending 31st December, 1961

| | Non-Agricultural | | | | (5) Agricul- tural |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | (1) Local Autho- rity | (2) Dwell- ing Houses | (3) All others (includ- ing Business Premises) | (4) Totals 1, 2 & 3 | |
| I. Number of Properties in Local Authority's District | 17 | 5,666 | 512 | 6,195 | 558 |
| II. Number of Properties in- spected as a result of | | | | | |
| (a) Notification ... | — | 173 | 11 | 184 | 11 |
| (b) Surveys ... | 17 | 332 | 72 | 421 | 94 |
| (c) Otherwise ... | — | 102 | 68 | 170 | 44 |
| III. Total Inspections carried out — including re-inspec- tions ... | 129 | 760 | 175 | 1,064 | 149 |
| IV. Number of Properties in- spected which were found to be infested by | | | | | |
| (a) Rats { Major | 3 | — | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| Minor | 14 | 215 | 22 | 251 | 35 |
| (b) Mice { Major | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Minor | — | 35 | 6 | 41 | — |
| V. Number of Infested Prop- erties treated by the L.A. | 17 | 266 | 20 | 303 | 11 |
| VI. Total Treatments carried out including re-treatments | 28 | 277 | 20 | 325 | 11 |
| VII. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act. | | | | | |
| (a) Treatment ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing) | — | — | — | — | — |
| VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a Notice under Section 4 of the Act ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| IX. Legal Proceedings ... | — | — | — | — | — |
| X. Number of "Block Con- trol" schemes carried out | 5 | — | — | — | — |

Meat Inspection

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. | Horses |
|---|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--------|--------|
| Number killed (if known) | 2,284 | 671 | 18,869 | 68,247 | 35,935 | 0 |
| Number inspected ... | 2,284 | 671 | 18,859 | 68,012 | 35,935 | 0 |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned ... | 4 | 14 | 19 | 59 | 108 | 0 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 70 | 73 | 9 | 311 | 864 | 0 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... | 3.24 | 13.0 | 0.15 | 0.54 | 2.70 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 415 | 0 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... | 0 | 0.15 | 0 | 0 | 1.15 | 0 |
| Cysticercosis | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Generalised and totally condemned ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No changes have been made in this service during the year. All parishes have a fortnightly collection with the exception of Bishops Hull and Bishops Lydeard which have a weekly service.

Salvage Collection and Sales

The following items of salvage were disposed of during the year :

| Material | T. | C. | Q. | lbs. | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------|-----|----|-----|------|----------------------|----|----|
| Newsprint | 119 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 359 | 4 | 0 |
| Cardboard | 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 0 |
| Bottles | | | 251 | doz. | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| Paper Meal Bags | | 13 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Metal | 1 | 9 | 1 | 24 | 79 | 0 | 10 |
| Wools | | 9 | 1 | 10 | 26 | 3 | 0 |
| Rags | 4 | 9 | 0 | 18 | 35 | 9 | 11 |
| Scrap Iron | 7 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 42 | 9 | 0 |
| Jam Jars | | | 6 | doz. | | 3 | 0 |
| Light Scrap | 1 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Lead | | 2 | 0 | 26 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Lead Cable | | | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Battery Lead | | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| Lead Covered Wire | | | 1 | 12 | | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | | <hr/> £640 7 1 <hr/> | | |

Factories Act, 1961

The inspection of factories and workshops in the district from a public health point of view is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. Routine visits are paid to the various premises and the following table gives particulars of this work.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :—

| Premises. | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Inspec- tions | Written notices | Occupiers Prose- cuted |
| (i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies | 87 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| (iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Total ... | 98 | 20 | 0 | 0 |

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 50—Burial of the Dead

One notification was received during the year that a person in the area had died and that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body had been made. The burial was accordingly arranged by the Council.

